

**Lake Michigan Coastal Program Advisory Board
Meeting 3**

October 15, 2003

6:15 p.m.

Red Mill County Park

0185 S. Holmesville Rd., LaPorte, IN 46350

MINUTES

Mark Reshkin opened the meeting at 6:15 and welcomed all who attended. After introductions, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ATTENDANCE

Board members present: Henry Bliss (Porter Co. Citizen), Kevin Breitzke (NIRPC), Dorreen Carey (City of Gary), Edgar Corns (Agriculture), Dale Engquist (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore), John Heidbreder (Historical Resources), Jack Hires (Lake Michigan Aquatic Resources), J. Allen Johnson (Lake County Citizen), Paul Labus (Local Land Trusts), Tim Morgan (Local Parks and Recreation), Charlotte Read (Environment), Mark Reshkin (Universities), John Smolar (Lake Dependent Uses), Ian Steele (Town of Michiana Shores), Tammy Steinhagen (LaPorte County Citizen), Don Wadleigh (USACOE), Dionne Wisniewski (Tourism), Jim Juricic (INDOT), Liz McCloskey (USFWS), Bill Moran (NRCS), Brian Miller (Sea Grant)

Board members absent: Rudolph Clay (Lake County Commissioner), John Evans (Porter County Commissioner), William Hager (LaPorte County Commissioner), Tom Keilman (Industry and Business), Stephen Mosher (Port of Indiana), Dave Pilz (City of Valparaiso), Judy Beck (EPA), Jan Miller (USACOE), Niles Parker (IDOC)

Other interested parties present: F.R. Anscombe (EPA), Alex da Silva (IDEM), Stephen Davis (DNR), G. Hodges (Portage Port Authority), John Kennedy (IDOC), Jim Krejci (Purdue University), Larry Osterholz (DNR), Wendy Smith (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore), Joy Marburger (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore)

Lake Michigan Coastal Program Staff present: Mike Molnar (LMCP Program Manager), Jenny Kintzele (LMCP Program Specialist), Andi Pierce (LMCP Projects Coordinator)

APPROVAL OF JULY 9, 2003 MEETING MINUTES

Mark Reshkin called for comments on the July 9 meeting minutes. Charlotte Read pointed out that Paulene Poparad's name was misspelled. Mark Reshkin called for a motion to approve the minutes. Charlotte Read moved to approve the minutes and Don Wadleigh seconded. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Program Staff Announcement

Mike Molnar announced the hiring of Jenny Kintzele as Program Specialist. Jenny was hired on September 15.

Grant Issues

Jenny Kintzele presented for discussion summaries of the six grant applications that were received on or before October 1 for the 2003 funding cycle. Mark Reshkin noted that the CAB's roll in the grant making cycle is not to vote for or lobby for grants but to provide DNR with input and technical assistance. He asked that any board members who have a special interest in any grants abstain from the discussion. Doreen Carey asked whether Mike Molnar or Jenny Kintzele would accept comments via e-mail after the CAB meeting. Mike answered in the affirmative.

Diversity, Distribution and Habitat Characteristics of Aquatic Plant Communities in the Indiana Dunes Region

Mark Reshkin pointed out that the ponds referred to in the grant application summary have been studied for the past 30 years or so. Charlotte Read asked if this project would duplicate past work. Dale Engquist said that the project is complementary to previous work and that the National Lakeshore supports this project. (It was determined that Dale does not have a conflict of interest in participating in this discussion, as the National Lakeshore isn't a collaborator and won't receive funding directly from this grant.) Paul Labus added that there is lots of information available about emergent vegetation but very little about submergent vegetation, so this project would be helpful for the future restoration of other wetland areas and would benefit the rest of the coastal region. Charlotte asked that LMCP staff clarify that the research would focus on submergent vegetation.

Several questions were brought up regarding the specifics of the proposal. Charlotte Read asked if the project fit any of the priorities identified by the CAB. Jenny said that this application was in the form of a research paper and that the applicant did not follow the application guidelines. Mark Reshkin asked whether research was a funding priority. Doreen Carey pointed out that the CAB decided that the LMCP wouldn't emphasize research projects. Tim Morgan asked whether we can request more specific information about the project such as maps, information about priority issues and so on. Jenny said that we could this time, but in the future the LMCP would not be so lenient and would expect applicants to follow the application guidelines.

Hoosier Prairie Nature Preserve Priority Wetland Prairie and Associated Savanna Restoration

Mark Reshkin asked who would be doing the work for this project. Jenny Kintzele answered that the DNR Division of Nature Preserves would contract out the work. Edgar Corns expressed the opinion that this would be a very good project to support, as it meets several priorities.

Jerry Pavese Park Shoreline Stabilization Project (Phase I)

Mark Reshkin asked Denarie Kane, the applicant, to explain what kind of restoration methods would be used to stabilize this shoreline. She assured the CAB that the City of Hobart planned to use bioengineering methods to return the shoreline to a more natural state with a natural grade and native vegetation. Mike Molnar pointed out that bioengineering is a common practice in the Lake and River Enhancement Program and that there are many qualified consultants available. The City of Hobart will use LARE funds to match LMCP funds if their project is approved. Bill Moran expressed his support of this project, noting that he had read the watershed management plan for the area and thought it excellent and well thought-out.

Karwick Nature Park Brownfield Redevelopment Project

Mark Reshkin suggested that LMCP staff ask to see proof that the brownfield site has been cleaned up, such as evidence of a 30-year management plan. Edgar Corns expressed his doubt that a landfill closed in the 1960s does not contain toxic substances. Doreen Carey noted that part of the City of Michigan City's brownfield grant was probably an assessment of the contamination of the land. She would support this project because reuses a brownfield as greenspace instead of an industrial area.

Jack Hires asked what impact this project would have on Trail Creek, which runs through the property. Jenny Kintzele answered that there is no discussion of restoring Trail Creek in the application.

Ian Steele asked whether the \$100,000 requested is a specific part of the \$1,500,000 total project cost or could the project stand on its own. Jenny answered that the project could stand on its own if the City of Michigan City failed to secure riverboat funds for the project.

Wicker Memorial Park Stormwater Control Project

Charlotte Read asked how much of the proposed funding goes to design and how much goes to restoration. She expressed concern that the applicant planned to build a retention basin rather than a detention basin.

Mark Reshkin pointed out that Wicker Park is being investigated by the ACOE and the DNR because they are dumping truckloads of soil in the park. LMCP staff will look into the investigation before making a decision on this project. Mark also said that he would love to see new stormwater management technology be used in LMCP grant projects, but he doesn't see that here. Jack Hires added that retention basins just warm water up and contribute to heat pollution in the receiving stream.

Kevin Breitzke noted that he is somewhat encouraged by this project because golf courses don't usually consider environmental issues in planning. Mark Reshkin added that Lost Marsh would be a good model for the planners at Wicker Park to follow.

Don Wadleigh asked if there is a basin already in existence at the park. Jenny answered that there is, and that it is basically a ditch that runs the width of the golf course. Don asked how far along the applicant is in the design process. Jenny answered that they are not far along—they could still consider some of the issues brought up at the CAB meeting. Dorreen Carey added that, where possible, LMCP grant money should go to innovative projects rather than those that just retrofit old technology. She further added that the CAB should ask the LMCP staff to put limitations on control devices that could be funded.

Henry Bliss asked if this project is reactionary to any issues in the park or golf course. Jenny answered that the application mentions mosquitoes and flooding as the major issues being addressed.

Deep River Headwaters Land Acquisition Project

Charlotte Read noted that Lake Co. Parks has also applied for a grant from the North American Waterfowl Conservation Plan to acquire land at Deep River. Paul Labus said that the LMCP funding would go to purchase two different parcels.

Bill Moran asked if successful applicants were required to acknowledge the LMCP grant at the site through signage. Mike answered that they were.

Other issues

Mike Molnar explained to the CAB that the LMCP will have extra 2003 money available because we only received six applications. There are several ways to use the money, which Mike presented to the CAB for discussion. He suggested the following:

- Return the money to NOAA
- Accept additional requests for the funds
- Use the money to fund good 2004 projects if we receive more applications than we can fund
- Use part of the money to start a small grants program
 - o The small grants program would be based on a similar program in Minnesota. The maximum award would be \$5000 with a 1:1 match and the money would fund short-term non-construction projects.

Liz McCloskey asked what is meant by ‘construction’. Jenny Kintzele answered that the definition of a construction project is a subject of controversy, but generally it refers to projects that use heavy machinery. Liz further asked what could be used for match for the small grants—cash or in-kind. Jenny said both would be acceptable.

Tammy Steinhagen asked if the LMCP could use the extra 2003 money to initiate another round of funding in 2004. Mike answered that we could in time, but not immediately as it may slow the approval of the projects already proposed for 2003.

Mark Reshkin asked why the LMCP received so few grant applications for the 2003 funding cycle. Mike Molnar answered that it had to do with timing and public awareness. Also, the change in the match ratio may have made a difference to some people. For the 2004 grant cycle, there will have been more lead time to advertise the grants, and the LMCP is also planning a grant workshop to answer questions. Mark Reshkin encouraged CAB members to help get the word out to their respective organizations and other interested contacts. He further suggested that the LMCP notify the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns and the Indiana Association of Counties as well as property owner’s associations.

6217—Coastal Nonpoint Control Plan

Mike Molnar presented background information about the Coastal Nonpoint Control Plan.

Charlotte Read asked how TMDL’s factor into the 6217 process. Mike answered that TMDLs will be addressed in the goals/implementation portion of the plan.

Mike Molnar added that MS4s are excluded from the plan because nonpoint source issues are already being addressed within their boundaries. Also, the forestry section will be excluded because there is very little forestry activity in the coastal zone. Mark Reshkin suggested that LMCP staff add MS4s to coastal zone maps.

Mission Statement Development

Mike Molnar directed CAB members to review the mission statement information in their CAB packets.

Mark Reshkin suggested that the CAB set up a workgroup to write the mission statement. He asked that CAB members interested in participating should e-mail Mike.

Other business

Kevin Breitzke moved that the co-chair (rather than the secretary) take over the duties of the chair in his absence. Jack Hires seconded the motion. The motion carried.

NEXT MEETING

A special meeting to discuss 2004 grant applications has been set for Wednesday, December 10th at 6:15 p.m. Dorreen Carey agreed to find a location for the meeting in Lake County.

The next CAB meeting date, time and location will be set at that meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jenny Kintzele announced the Grant Workshop for the 2004 funding cycle, which will take place on Tuesday, October 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center.

Charlotte Read announced that the Save the Dunes Council will host a luncheon at noon on Sunday, October 26th at the Marquette Park Pavilion in Gary. Representative Peter Visclosky will present the

details of his “Vision for the Shoreline.” The cost of the luncheon will be \$25. Contact the Save the Dunes Council at 219-879-3937 to make reservations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Minutes prepared by Andi Pierce.